

*6th Exp.*—This dog was bitten in the flank, received all attention, but died in an hour and a half.

*Veratrum Viride.*—Dr. H. H. TOLAND, of San Francisco, Cal., states (*Pacific Med. and Surg. Journ.*, March, 1858) that he has found this plant "invaluable in pneumonia, pleuritis, and catarrhal fever, after moderate depletion, and especially applicable to the treatment of these diseases in children, the pulse being diminished from fifty to seventy-five beats in a minute, in ten or twelve hours, without either nausea or any other unpleasant symptom being produced. Upon adults it acts as powerfully, and its effects are as speedily produced; and the pulse may be reduced to thirty-five without either distress or danger.

"Although it cannot be considered a curative agent in typhoid fever, which is the most prevalent febrile disease in San Francisco, the increased arterial action may not only be controlled, but the suffering of the patient and the ravages of the local difficulty greatly diminished, by combining this with other remedies. Recently in the treatment of several violent and obstinate cases the pulse has been kept below seventy, and a more rapid and safe recovery thereby obtained.

"Having administered it alone in one of the most painful and unmanageable of the curable diseases incident to the country, rheumatism, particularly in the acute stage, I have found it more efficacious than any remedy that has heretofore been employed; besides controlling the action of the heart, it relieves pain, and is more decidedly diuretic than even colchicum. When venesection is resorted to in acute rheumatism to diminish arterial action, metastasis to the heart frequently occurs, and that organ becomes incurably diseased, which could not result from the use of the veratrum, by which the same indication can be as certainly and more speedily fulfilled.

"In acute carditis resulting from exposure, in a child 7 years of age, accompanied with the most violent and aggravated symptoms of that formidable disease, the excessive action of the organ was controlled in less than twenty-four hours, and the influence of the remedy maintained until the disease entirely disappeared, without the aid of any other treatment except external irritation.

"If it were useful only in acute rheumatism and rheumatic carditis as well as in acute and chronic inflammations of that organ, it is invaluable, particularly in California, where so many are afflicted, by exposure, with these distressing and always obstinate diseases.

"It has also been highly recommended in gout and gouty rheumatism, but of its efficacy in these affections I am unable, from experience, to give an opinion, as they seldom occur in California, which does not result from the temperance of its inhabitants, but from their great activity.

"As might be inferred from its specific action upon the heart, it is invaluable in active hemorrhage. In one of the most obstinate and protracted cases of uterine hemorrhage that I have ever treated, after every other remedy had failed, the veratrum was administered alone, and the disease was not only controlled but permanently cured. During the convalescence, the precipitated carbonate of iron was combined with the veratrum, and continued until the red globules of the blood were restored.

"Hæmoptysis, accompanied with increased arterial action, is arrested more speedily and effectually by this article, than by any combination of remedies that have heretofore been prescribed, although it does not appear to exert a direct influence over the respiratory organs.

"Although the veratrum is useful to the physician, to the surgeon it is indispensable. In traumatic fever, resulting either from injuries or surgical operations, its specific effect is more speedily produced: a few doses will reduce the pulse, even when greatly accelerated to the healthy standard, at which it can easily be retained until the cause subsides.

"After an operation for aneurism of any of the large arteries, the action of the heart can be easily controlled, by which the danger of secondary hemorrhage is greatly diminished. Instead of being compelled to resort to venesection, to diminish vascular action, which necessarily interferes in a greater or less degree with the restorative process, the effect can be produced and main-

tained until the irritation resulting from the wound subsides, and the system accommodates itself to the derangement of the circulation necessarily resulting from the obliteration of a large arterial trunk.

"This remedy has been prescribed during the last six months in every disease accompanied with increased vascular action, which I have been required to treat, sometimes alone, but more frequently in combination with other remedies, with the same result—and is, when given in doses corresponding with the age of the patient, perfectly safe and reliable.

"Although it may be supposed that I place too high an estimate upon the virtues of the veratrum, I know that I have written nothing but what has been observed, and nothing more than justice to the remedy, and a duty I owe the profession requires. It is useful in the treatment of miasmatic and typhoid fevers, and invaluable in the management of traumatic fever, rheumatism—both acute and chronic—and active hemorrhage, and may be given in cases of emergency as an emetic, although it is neither considered valuable nor proper."

The preparation which Dr. Toland has principally used is Thayer's fluid extract, prepared at Cambridge, Mass. Four drops of this given every two hours has never failed, he says, to diminish the frequency of the pulse.

*Veratrum Viride as an Arterial Sedative.*—Dr. T. S. SMITH, of Murfreesboro', Tenn., reports (*Nashville Journ. Med. and Surg.*) four cases of pneumonia, in which he gave the veratrum. He states that in his "experience the veratrum does not reduce the force and fulness of the pulse in proportion to the reduction of frequency—that it only reduces the frequency, while the force and fullness seem to assume a nearly normal standard. When the frequency of the heart's action is lessened, the heat of skin, thirst, and pain, consequent upon inflammation, subside, and free perspiration is often induced."

*Sulphate of Cinchonia an economical Substitute for Quinia.*—Dr. F. P. PORCHER states (*Charleston Med. Journ.*, July, 1858) that he has successfully treated fifty-one cases of malarial fever (intermittent and remittent) in the Marine Hospital, Charleston, with the sulphate of cinchonia. His formula was as follows: R.—Sulph. cinchon. gr. x; Morphine gr.  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; Acid-sulph. aromat. gtt. x. M. To be given three times a day. Dr. Cain had also previously employed this article in the hospital with favourable results.

*Remedy for Dysmenorrhœa and consequent Sterility.*—Dr. E. D. FENNER states (*New Orleans Med. News, &c.*, July, 1858) that he has used for some years in the treatment of dysmenorrhœa with great success the following mixture, originally recommended by Dr. Falk, of London: R.—Gum guaiac  $\mathfrak{z}$ i; Balsam canadense  $\mathfrak{z}$ i; Ol. sassafras  $\mathfrak{z}$ ii; Merc. corrosiv. sublimat.  $\mathfrak{z}$ i; Rect. spt. vini (alcohol)  $\mathfrak{z}$ viii. "Dissolve the guaiac and balsam in one-half the spirit, and the corrosive sublimate in the other. Let the guaiac and balsam digest for several days; then pour off the clear liquor, mix with the sublimate, and add the oil. Dose. Ten or twenty drops night and morning in a glass of wine or water, *pro re nata*."

This was called by Dr. Falk "*Tinctura Antacrida*."

Dr. Fenner says that he usually directs the patient to begin a day or two before the expected period and take twenty-five drops in an infusion of sage or sweetened water, night and morning, until the discharge is freely established; then cease till the next period. In obstinate and severe cases, the medicine should be commenced a week or ten days before the period; and if the pain appears, the medicine should be taken every four or six hours till relieved. The pain usually disappears as soon as the discharge becomes free; but in most cases the discharge comes on without pain after taking a few doses. I have known immediate relief to be given by a single dose taken in the paroxysm; but I have seen cases in which the pain was excruciating, causing shrieks and even violent convulsions. In such I have had to resort to a more prompt and efficient anæsthetic, as the inhalation of chloroform, or the following, which I have often known to act like a charm: R.—Spirit camphor  $\mathfrak{z}$ iii;